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[54] GENE THERAPY FOR EFFECTOR CELL REGULATION

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[57] ABSTRACT

The present invention provides a nucleic acid-based therapeutic composition to treat an animal with disease by controlling the activity of effector cells, including T cells, macrophages, monocytes and/or natural killer cells, in the animal. Therapeutic compositions of the present invention include superantigen-encoding nucleic acid molecules, either in the presence or absence of a cytokine-encoding nucleic acid molecule and/or chemokine-encoding nucleic acid molecules, depending upon the disease being treated. The present invention also relates to an adjuvant for use with nucleic acid-based vaccines. Adjuvant compositions of the present invention include an immunogen combined with superantigen-encoding nucleic acid molecules, either in the presence or absence of a cytokine-encoding nucleic acid molecule and/or chemokine-encoding nucleic acid molecules.

28 Claims, 14 Drawing Sheets